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## ORIGINAL DEPARTMENT.

### Communications.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF

Distinguished Living New York Surgeons.

By SAM'L W. FRANCIS, A.M., M.D.,

Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine.

No. 16.

Alexander E. Hosack.

ALEXANDER EDDY HOSACK was born at No. 63 Broadway, New York City, April 6th, 1805, and has passed much of his eventful life in this metropolis. His father, Dr. DAVID HOSACK,\* was descended from an old stock of respected ancestors, and married an adopted daughter of Dr. CASPAR WISTAR. The family consisted of three girls and five boys. Though he obtained the best instructors for his son, he neglected no opportunity that could afford facilities to enlighten the mind of his boy, and accordingly placed him under the efficient Dr. AYDLOTT, who subsequently became President of an Indiana College, and whose best interests he was wont to consult. Mr. McPHARLAN also assisted in watching over the mental growth of his young pupil, and by his sage counsels and literary attainments increased the already growing love for general reading and sound principles of scholastic duties. Following these several departments, young Alexander became enamored of the classics, and not a little versed in the acquirement of mathematics. It was during these student days that his father induced him to rise early and read carefully Gregory's *Conspicua Medicina*; a work that even now, in this age of wisdom and positive knowledge, ranks high in the scale of learning, and instructs the man of reading while it interests the doctor. One of the reasons why it has proved so effectual in its beneficial results, is because it was written *con amore*, and seemed but the imprint of Dr. GREGORY's own mind. Before writing it, he is said to have read through Cicero once, and Hippocrates twice.

This close application to books, and other predisposing causes, enfeebled the constitution of Alexander so much that he became too weak to follow out the course of a college life, having been subject to bleeding of the lungs. This rendered a classical education out of the question; so the attention of both father and son was turned to a speedy restoration to health; the sanitary laws of exercise and generous diet. In a few months ALEXANDER determined to study medicine from choice, and accordingly entered the University of Pennsylvania, whence he was graduated doctor of medicine at the end of the session of 1823-4. It is pleasing indeed for him to recall the fact to mind, that he was the last pupil of Dr. PHYSIC, and had been an earnest believer in the aphoristic statements of that genial physician, eminent surgeon, and cordial philosopher, Dr. GIBSON.\*

Dr. HOSACK's Thesis was prepared with care, and though never published, evinced much that was excellent in reasoning, and sound in treatment. The subject was not a trite one—being "Senile Catarrh," and one that is now the topic of much discussion, and many theories. His father had been a graduate from the same Institution, under Dr. BENJAMIN RUSH, and it was this associative feeling that induced him to leave his place of birth and seek instruction from a parent's alma mater. Remaining in the United States only long enough to obtain information as to what was known of medicine and collateral surgery, Dr. HOSACK went abroad and passed three years of intense study and close application at Paris. During 1825-6 and 7, he applied himself faithfully, and became a student under the inspiring guardianship of DUPUYTREN, at the same time that RICORD, a native of the West Indies, and formerly in his father's office, and the celebrated NELLATON were fellow students. He also endeavored to keep up with the hasty strides of scientific AMUSSAT, but was forced to surrender to a tired frame and rebelling constitution; for AMUSSAT was wont to make his students rise at three in the morning and go the rounds of the hospital.

In speaking to me of his experience with AMUS-

\* See FRANK GROSS' Medical Biographies. Also, Life of Dr. Hosack, by J. W. FRANCIS, Hist. Magazine.

\* Now residing at Newport, R. I., and practicing the amenities of life among those who appreciate a learned man.

SAT, Dr. HOSACK stated, with emphasis and in admiring accents, that "he was the hardest worker he ever saw." It was this constant application and continued comparative study that has placed ANUSSAT on the list of the worthies of this important century. For eighteen months Dr. HOSACK was an "externe" in the Hôtel-Dieu, and for one year an "interne," filling the place vacated by RICORD.

The doctor's religious faith has been that of Episcopalian, with him a sort of family creed. On returning to this country, Dr. HOSACK commenced the practice of medicine and surgery, and besides the usual treatment of fractures, the amputation of diseased members, and the judicious administration of suitable remedies, he investigated rare cases, and propounded new theories.

One fact alone must ever be worthy of record. Dr. HOSACK was the first practitioner in the city of New York who administered ether as an anæsthetic agent during a surgical operation. He had received a letter from Dr. WARREN about his friend EDDY, on the subject, and at once made a practical experiment. The patient to whom he gave the ether was rendered insensible to all pain—the operation was successfully performed, and the many physicians and surgeons who were present at this novel meeting, concurred in pronouncing the discovery as sublime and the test most conclusive.\* The operations performed by Dr. HOSACK during his first experiments with ether were for stone, amputation, and the removal of two breasts. It is rather a satire on humanity at large, that the two joint discoverers of ether, Drs. MORTON and WELLS, suffered from want, owing to their exertions; the result of trying to derive benefit from this most excellent of boons.

Dr. MORRIS has made himself nearly a beggar by his labors, and Dr. Wells, the dentist, not only spent much time and money on his pet theory, but made so many experiments by inhaling both ether and chloroform that his mind became seriously affected. He came to New York and degenerated into the vitriol man—that terrible haunter, who was wont to station himself at dusk in some gloomy corner of a public thoroughfare and throw nitric acid on the elegant shawls and silk dresses of the passers by. Of course he was at last discovered and arrested.

\* MRS. HOSACK, the doctor's mother, frequently took tea and played chess with BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, and PRIESTLY, of honorable memory. She it was who informed the subject of the present sketch that Dr. FRANKLIN had been accustomed to amuse the children of the neighborhood by administering ether to them, and letting those not under its influence laugh at their fellow-playmates.

Lodged in a cell, he gave way to remorse and despondency; severed the left femoral artery with such force that he cut through the adjacent muscles down to the bone; inhaled his beloved anæsthetic, and was found dead, with a red handkerchief thrown over his face.

Dr. HOSACK saw him almost immediately after, but it was too late; and one of the greatest benefactors of mankind passed from earth through the assistance of what has saved hundreds from a lingering pain.

Dr. HOSACK for many years was attending surgeon of the Marine Hospital, and met with much of an interesting and eminently improving character. He was principally instrumental in originating Ward's Island Hospital.

He first introduced SYMES' operation of excision of the elbow in this country. On one occasion he removed a stone from a man's bladder, that had been the source of a vast amount of suffering for some eighteen years. The patient was married, and though the doctor removed two stones during the first operation, and subsequently several more, he was enabled to have connection with his wife, and was ultimately blessed with another child. This is a rare case, for as a general rule, lithotomy is almost invariably followed by a comparative emasculation, and those afflicted lose their passionate power in a great degree. It has been the doctor's particular aim to operate without dividing the prostate gland, and this with abundant success. The idea is a German one.

The doctor has had many diseases, and been prostrated at different periods of his life, owing to his very susceptible nature, and that peculiar idiosyncrasy of some constitutions, which is as dangerous as it is incurable. He has had the yellow fever, been the victim of Asiatic cholera, overcome by typhus fever, and twice nearly lost his life by the destroying effects of bilious remittent fever. Though often overworked by an enlarged practice, the doctor never formed any partnership of a medical character. So happy was his treatment for stone, that in one year he operated with entire satisfaction on eight different patients. One anecdote which the doctor related to me, is exceedingly interesting. A gentleman of much wealth called on him and induced him to remove one of his testicles, for schirrus, the other one having been cut out some time since. The doctor was satisfied that the diseased one justified the step, and did so. Though effectually castrated, the man fell in love with a young lady, said nothing about deficiency, married her, and confessed to Dr. HOSACK, a long

time after, that he had had connection every night for three weeks with a great amount of sensual pleasure; but finding it very exhausting, he had desisted.

On another occasion he removed seventeen calculi from a patient\* at one time, in the presence of nine doctors; the stones measuring from the size of a hen's egg to an English filbert nut. The man not only recovered, but outlived the nine doctors. This skill in surgery evinced itself at an early age, for when but nineteen years old, he amputated an arm. On three different patients has he tied the external iliac, and each time with success.

In 1833, he invented an instrument for the purpose of rendering the operation for staphylophary more complete in its minutiae, as the present instruments designed for its cure were more cumbersome and less exact as to results. When his experiments had been sufficiently tested, Dr. HOSACK performed the operation on the first case that offered, in the presence of distinguished associates, and was rewarded by acknowledged praise, and the certainty that his method and apparatus were by far the best in use.

For many years, Dr. HOSACK turned his attention to capital punishment, and the various modes adopted for inflicting the ends of justice on the sentenced. Especially did he study the subject of death by hanging, and purposely witnessed the execution of many criminals. The result of his examinations was to the effect that they suffered no pain, but gradually became asphyxiated and lost all power of sensation. In one instance, the doctor told me that a mulatto, named Hill, had been sold as a slave to a party in New Orleans, and while on his way to Louisiana, had joined a conspiracy on board the vessel to seize the captain, and if necessary, put an end to his life. He was discovered, tried, and sentenced to be hung. Through the agency of the officiating clergyman, who administered spiritual consolation to the condemned man, Dr. HOSACK obtained an interview, and having explained to him his object in making this scientific request, exacted from him a promise to exhibit, as far as consciousness would admit, the state of his feelings as regards suffering while being hung. Dr. HOSACK also persuaded the Marshal to permit the prisoner's arms to be bound so loosely that he was enabled to clap his hands if, as agreed upon, he did not feel pain. The day arrived for the public execution, the place was crowded and all in readiness. Dr. HOSACK, as attending surgeon, was permitted to take a favorable position, and

watch each movement of the dying man—a whispered recognition told him that poor Hill would keep up signals till the last—and at the given word the body of the unfortunate was hoisted up. Instantly, Hill brought his hands together and continued to clap them gently for the space of one minute and a half, at the end of that time he gradually lowered his arms, and, as it were, lost the power of discrimination, his brain being so beclouded by dark blood that he could no longer act voluntarily. A few convulsive efforts, followed by immediate death, at length closed the melancholy scene and life became extinct, at the expiration of nine minutes and a half. Now as it was directly the reverse of what the man would have done if he suffered, or the opposite of the natural motions of the arm if he had left them to their instinctive impulse, this is very decided evidence that no pain was endured, and must prove of great value to the scientific world at large, and the lovers of humanity in particular. It is rare indeed to find a punishment as degrading as hanging, and as merciful in its results.

In speaking of the curious effects of hanging on some persons, Dr. HOSACK mentioned to me that celebrated case in Paris, where the mistress of a wealthy nobleman was tried for murdering him. He had been found dead in his room, suspended by the neck. She was the last person seen coming out of his chamber, and every circumstance seemed to point against her as the perpetrator of the crime. But when called upon to answer the charge, she made a statement that not only staggered the court by its singularity, but freed her from punishment, because it was acknowledged by the Judge to be beyond the power of invention to have originated an idea so unparalleled in its uniqueness. This Frenchwoman confessed that the Duke had dissipated so extensively in his earlier days that his passionate desires could not be sufficiently roused by the ordinary methods of erotic stratagem, so that when he wished to have connection, in order to bring about priapism he was accustomed to hang himself gently and gradually, and this produced the longed-for effect. She stated that on the said melancholy occasion he had excited her anger, and she had not cut him down as soon as usual. The consequence had been death. She was accordingly discharged. Here we have an argument, startling in its character, that hanging not only causes no pain, but at least in one instance was adopted for the express purpose of gratifying the cerebellum.\*

\* At Cohoes Falls, New York.

\* Lee Causes Calibres contain something almost as curious.

Dr. Hosack was the first physician to examine the body of COLT after he committed suicide. He had been called upon by the officials of the City Prison to attend the criminal at his execution and pronounce the body lifeless after hanging, but the unforeseen intervention of self-destruction brought about other results. It seems that when COLT found out at the last moment, that is in the morning, that there was neither a possibility of escaping nor the least probability of a reprieve, he induced some friend to send him in a coffee-pot of hot coffee in which a dagger was concealed. He had then sat down, pointed the weapon over the region of the heart, and with both hands driven it in even beyond the handle. For various reasons, Dr. Hosack was consulted by GEORGE GRIFFIN, an able lawyer, as to the identity of the body and the chances of COLT's escape. This false theory the doctor exposed at length by a clear and lucid statement, which conclusively proved the fact of his death.\*

For several years Dr. Hosack attended AARON BURR, and was enabled from this close intercourse to learn many interesting facts, and ascertain much that explained what had been concealed from view. Among other things was a singular circumstance that AARON BURR entertained the idea for years that he received MONTGOMERY in his arms as he fell on the battle-field. On close examination, this has been found to be a mistake.

Dr. Hosack on one occasion asked Mr. BURR if he did not experience at times contrition at having shot HAMILTON? BURR looked at him with a marked expression of stern feeling, and said with emphasis, "No, sir; I could not regret it. Twice he crossed my path. He brought it on himself."

Dr. Hosack's favorite branch of practice has been that of general surgery, but on asking him some time since if he would be a surgeon again, I received a comprehensive reply, condensed into the suggestive word, "Never!"

Though he did not take an active part in the armies of the North during the rebellion, Dr. Hosack benefitted many returned soldiers by his sage advice and surgical treatment, and not a few owe him gratitude and life for his courteous assistance in their behalf. One case, in particular, is interesting as an encouraging circumstance. About the middle of the war, a soldier presented himself at the Doctor's office and sought for treatment. He had received a bullet through his chest, which lodged in the scapula. Besides the

general inflammation that arises from a gunshot wound, an immense amount of matter, held in the pleural sac, filled up the left side, so that he could with difficulty take a breath, and, on auscultation, the heart was found to be pressed up under the right clavicle. Dr. Hosack at once proposed paracentesis thoracis, and accordingly used a German instrument, most excellent in its adaptability and guarding capabilities against the introduction of air, and drew off one gallon. In all, twenty-two quarts were drawn off, and the man entirely recovered, married, and went to the war again.

Dr. Hosack has operated twenty-three times for stone on different individuals; tied the two carotids for encephaloid tumor, and in one instance cut the portio dura. But especially did he turn his attention to the removal of tumors in the urinary passages of the female. In not a few cases where the seat of the disease was at the extremity, has he amputated the urethra with signal success and permanent cure. For the removal of the tonsils he prefers the bistoury, as being more expeditious and less annoying to the sufferer. He has extirpated the parotid gland three times, and in particular, suggested, invented, and used an excellent method for curing popliteal aneurism by compressing the femoral artery.

A single woman, Irish by birth, was afflicted with scirrhus of the parotid gland, and sought the Doctor's aid. He operated and removed the tumor by ligating both carotids on the same side, for it was soon absorbed. The woman lived eight years and finally died of dropsy. About this time, Dr. Hosack witnessed at the New York Hospital a remarkable feat of agility on the part of a negro who had lost his legs. He made a bet with a man that he could climb to the top of the hospital, by means of the lightning-rod, sooner than the man could run up stairs. Stakes were made, the signal given, and the black sailor won his wager.

Dr. Hosack is very fond of a good segar, but is of the opinion that smoking is exceedingly injurious to the constitution, unless tempered by a guarded moderation. To him are we indebted for the careful investigation of the pustule maligne, which demands immediate treatment and active measures. In speaking of the lancing of carbuncles, the Doctor says, "Open any gland that has matter in it, from a whitlow to an abscess."

#### LIST OF ORIGINAL PAPERS.

I. Description of an Instrument for the Tying of Deep-seated Arteries. Published in Gibbon's

\* See a full account of the suicide and circumstances of the case in the *Commercial Advertiser* of that date.



Surgery and Philadelphia Medical Journal. With a plate. 1824.

II. Remarks on the Various Modes usually adopted for the Removal of the Tonsils. See American Journal of the Medical Sciences, February, 1828.

III. Observations on the Use and Advantages of the Actual Caутery, with cases. Read before the Med. and Phil. Society of New York, Jan. 1831, and printed in Amer. Jour. Med. Sciences, May 1831. Philadelphia.

IV. A Memoir on Staphyloraphy, with cases and a description of the instruments requisite for the operation. With plates. Communicated for the Medical Society of the City and County of New York. May 1833.

V. Paper on Sensitive Tumors of the Female Urethra. Vide Gibson's Surgery, vol. 2d, 6th edition, and New York Journal of Medicine and Surgery, July 1839.

VI. Successful Extirpation of a Tumor of the Parotid, with Observations on the Pathology of that Gland. With a plate. New York Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences, March, 1844.

VII. Case of Popliteal Aneurism cured by Compression with a new Instrument. With a plate. Communicated for the N. Y. Jour. Med. and Collat. Sciences, (new series.) July, 1848.

VIII. Three Operations for Encephaloid Tumors of the Antrum and Superior Maxillary Bone, by Tying the two Carotids of the same side, (right,) together with the Division, in one instance, of the Trunk of Portio Dura. Two successful and one fatal. Never published.

IX. Twenty-three cases of Lithotomy by a Peculiar Operation, without Dividing the Prostate Gland. All successful.

X. Pamphlet on Anæsthesia, with cases. Being the first instance of the use of ether in New York.

XI. Pustule Maligne and its Treatment.

XII. Congenital Parasitic Tumors.

XIII. History of the Case of the late JOHN KEARNEY RODGERS, M. D. 1 vol., 8vo. Pp. 47. New York, 1851.

#### Carriage for Invalids.

M. QUIZZOV, of Leipsic, has patented in France a carriage that is air-tight, and so strong that the air may be compressed in it to a density suitable to the necessities of patients who have diseases requiring them to be kept in compressed air, in order to breathe effectively. The air is constantly pumped in, as the carriage runs, by a pump which is worked by an eccentric on the axle of the hind wheels.

#### INSANITY CURED BY CASTRATION.

By J. H. MARSHALL, M. D.,

Of Cleveland, Ohio.

Upon taking charge of the medical department of the Cleveland City Infirmary in April, 1863, I found in one of the cells for the incurable insane, Mr. J. B. R., a native of Bohemia, a physician by profession, aged 36, who practised masturbation very frequently, becoming exceedingly loathsome in his habits. Notwithstanding this great drain upon his system he was very muscular and athletic, enjoying excellent health, owing, doubtless, to the daily ablutions and frictions of the surface which he practiced upon himself, as well as to his naturally well formed and fully developed system.

Whenever a female chanced to pass near his cell he would go into ecstasies, and would exhaust all his persuasive powers to induce her to come to him. He complained bitterly of being confined, and would make desperate efforts to get out of his cell, attacking his keepers with a power and ferocity that greatly endangered the life of his attendants.

He had been confined successively in the Insane Asylum, County Jail, and Infirmary, for more than seven years, becoming more vicious and dangerous to manage all the time.

I resolved, with the permission of the Infirmary Board, to deprive him of the means of practising his loathsome habit, believing, if it would not restore his reason, it would render him tractable and manageable, and possibly get him into a condition to be used in some position about the infirmary, and thereby made to some extent useful. With this determination the opinion of P. Thayer, M. D. (Professor of Surgery) was obtained, when it was determined to try the effect of severing the vas deferens of each side, which was done on the 20th of October, 1863.

It arrested his loathsome habit for a few weeks, but he got at it again, and was fast becoming as malicious and dangerous as before, when it was determined to remove the testes, which Prof. Thayer did in the usual manner on the 30th of January, 1864, the patient being under the influence of chloroform.

The incisions healed rapidly and kindly. The patient soon evinced marked evidences of being a changed man, becoming quiet, kind, and docile. About the 20th of April, he was permitted to go into the country with some of his countrymen, where he remained a few weeks, then visited a sister in Wisconsin. This being the first liberty he had been permitted to have in seven years.

In about eight months he resumed the practice of his profession in a western city, where he continued, and it is said he is making a comfortable living, seemingly as sane as he ever was.

As far as my knowledge extends this is the first instance where castration has been resorted to for insanity.

The favorable result of this case, I think, fully justifies the trial of this remedy in cases where masturbation or excessive venery is found to be the cause of the disease.

In the treatment of all diseases, I believe it to be a well settled principle, where we can find the cause of the diseased action, the rational mode of treatment is to remove it if we can, and our patient generally then gets well, but if the cause is permitted to remain, the disease will continue.

**NOTES ON THE FEVER THAT PREVAILED AMONGST THE TROOPS IN CAMP BIG SPRINGS, NEAR CORINTH, MISS., IN JUNE, 1862.**

By EDWARD BATWELL, M. D.,

Of Ypsilanti, Mich.

Late Surgeon 14th Mich. Vet. Vol. Inf.

Perhaps nothing within the whole range of medical science affords so much ground for reflection to the thinking practitioner as the various types of fever which he is called upon to attend. In addition to the reflections which the varied symptoms urge upon him, taxing all his energies to treat and his utmost skill to combat, he is met on all sides by the query—"Doctor, what sort of fever do you call it?"—and in particular at the present day, every slight indisposition has to be named and referred to some internal organ, which too frequently is dosed, or rather aimed at, but very luckily for our patient, as frequently missed as hit. How fortunate it would be if we could adhere to WATSON's classification, so simple and yet so comprehensive, or to the synocha, synochus, and typhus of CULLEN—either sufficient for the definition, though they may not be for the "fashion of disease." Some time ago, being called to meet a practitioner from the country, previous to seeing our patient, and endeavoring to glean a little of the history of the case, I was amused when he told me that she had "biloid fever!" and yet there is nothing more out of the way in this classification than in hundreds of others that we daily see in "the books."

After the evacuation of Corinth, and when the army of ROSECRANS was in pursuit of BEAUREGARD toward Booneville, a large quantity of rain fell, perfectly saturating the ground, and this was followed by intensely hot weather. The men had

no tents and very insufficient clothing, having left blankets and overcoats in their camps around Farmington. No water could be found, except the mud puddles, used alike by men and mules. A few artesian wells were scattered through the country, but the incessant drain on them prevented anything like an adequate quantity accumulating, and kept the owners deprived of their usual scanty supply. The water was strongly impregnated with sulphur, and nothing but urgent necessity would have induced the men to use it. The soil was a red clay, and had large quantities of mica interspersed through it. About the middle of May, a number of the soldiers complained of having chills and fever, which finally settled down into continued fever of a very low type. Low muttering delirium, petechia, subsultus tendinum, extreme wakefulness and debility, with a pulse up to 150, compressible and feeble—all indicated a condition of extreme nervous exhaustion. Not many of these proved fatal, notwithstanding all these unfavorable symptoms.

The order to march came, and the army fell back to Camp Big Springs, near Corinth, and for some days everything seemed favorable toward restoring the good health of the troops. We were encamped in thick woods, had an abundant supply of water, full allowance of rations, and sanitary stores in abundance. About the 25th day of May, an evident increase of illness amongst the men took place. The symptoms were as follows: The man complained of no peculiar bad feeling, but a *tired* enervated condition, a sense of utter prostration, or in other words, the "malaise" of the French writers. The pulse never over 90; the skin cool; the tongue moist and natural; the urinary and alvine secretions regular; no chill, no fever, nothing to indicate anything wrong; the appetite, if anything, was increased; no want of sleep was complained of, nor did a single symptom present itself indicative of diseased action. Despite all this, there was a look about your patient, an expression of face, that firmly convinced you it was not a case of malingering you had to treat. This condition lasted for some days, when restlessness and a tendency to delirium supervened. You could not keep them quiet, move about they would, and nothing but actual force could keep them in bed. The desire to walk about was irresistible, and became more so as the case approached a fatal termination. The patients, from the onset of the disease, had rapidly lost flesh, and the pulse became languid and feeble, but no increase of action or any abnormal condition of the secretions, except these, presented

themselves. This went on from about the 12th to the 20th day, when they seemed to get more quiet and would move around, not so often, but would walk a greater distance, return to their beds and say they felt better, lie down, and in five minutes were *dead*. I lost eighteen cases, and the symptoms varied very slightly, if any, in any of them.

The mortality in other regiments around us was very great also, but the largest number of their cases was sent to General Hospital. Some died on their way there, and caused the issuing of an order directing, "That men in a *dying condition* should not be sent to General Hospital," but I doubt, if the Medical Director had seen these cases, if he could have either diagnosed the disease or prognosed the result. Not having a symptom to treat or an indication to follow, of course, our medication was entirely expectant, or rather *empirical*. Quinine, alteratives, stimulants, and counter-irritants were tried, and did not produce any beneficial result. Purgatives were given, but with no apparent effect, for good or ill. Post-mortem examinations were made, but they failed to develop any lesion, all the internal organs seemed of a healthy character, and nothing indicated diseased action. Amongst army surgeons it was called "typhoid fever," but I failed to trace a single point of similarity of symptoms.

On inquiry amongst the inhabitants, I heard of a local physician, and I immediately sought what his ideas were on the subject. He accurately described it, calling it the "walking fever," and saying, "it was peculiar to that section of Mississippi, and that change of location alone exercised any influence over it." He further stated, "that strangers were more especially attacked, and it generally proved fatal." The latter part of his information, I was sorry to say, I found by sad experience to be correct. The situation of our camps, placed as they were in the very thickest woods, I looked on as prejudicial to the health of the soldiers. The life of inactivity they led, the abundance of rations furnished, all tended to engender disease, and I have since felt astonished that so many escaped the baneful influence of these camps. Long experience has satisfactorily proved that a camping ground on an open plain is far more healthy, though not so agreeable or pleasant.

Dr. W. W. GREEN, late Lecturer upon Surgery in the Berkshire (Mass.) Medical School, has been appointed to the Professorship of Surgery in Bowdoin College, Maine.

## Hospital Reports.

PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL, }  
Oct. 12, 1865.

SURGICAL CLINIC BY DR. T. G. MORTON.

[Reported by C. R. Morgan.]

### Re-amputation for Intense Neuralgia in a Stump. Anesthesia induced by Nitrous-Oxide Gas.

John McCollom, aged 24, of strumous diathesis, was admitted to the hospital Oct. 12, 1865. He had been serving in the Army of the Potomac. On the 28th of September, 1864, his left foot was carried away by a piece of shell, amputation was performed a few hours afterward, in the inferior third of the leg by antero-posterior flaps. Union progressed favorably for three weeks, although, even during that time, there was an unusual amount of tenderness in the stump, but more especially in the course of the anterior tibial and peroneal nerves. Over the position of the end of the last nerve a hard nodule can be readily felt through the skin, intensely sensitive to pressure, and evidently involved in the cicatrix. Several small nodules can be felt in other parts of the stump. The skin is adherent to the end of the bones and the whole stump has the feeling of hardness, and immediately over the peroneal nerve at its termination, the skin is discolored and has frequently been the seat of ulcerations. The tissues above the stump are healthy, and his general health is good. The nodules are bulbous enlargements of the nerves which are disorganized, and the hardness is due to a deposit of fibrous matter. The only operation that will give him relief consists in a re-amputation higher up, going beyond the diseased nerves. Excisions of these tumors would not be of benefit here, as probably all the nerves are involved.

I use in this case as an anæsthetic, the protoxide of nitrogen, which consists of one equivalent of oxygen and one of nitrogen. The gas is carried in various sized gutta-percha bags, having a flexible tube and a hard rubber mouthpiece, with a stop-cock attached, which is placed against the teeth, the mouth being held open by a small wedge. The lips are drawn over the mouth-piece and, the nose being closed, the patient is directed to take a full breath. From twenty to thirty seconds is quite sufficient to induce total anæsthesia.

The patient was put under the influence of this agent in about fifteen seconds, and the amputation performed by making lateral skin flaps and a circular of the muscles, without the slightest pain or unpleasant effect. The operation lasted two minutes.

*Dissection of the Stump.* Oct. 25, 1865. Dr. PERFER reports that all the tissues in the lower part of the stump were involved in a dense cartilagin-



ous cicatrix. There was marked enlargement of all the nerves, especially of the posterior tibial, which was fully as large as an ordinary sciatic, hard and coarse, and terminating by a fibrous cord with a hard nodule developed about an inch above its insertion into the cicatrix. Both the anterior tibial and peroneal nerves terminated in flattened nodules, directly involved in dense fibrous tissues. The vessels were patulous within a short distance of the end of the stump.

**Microscopic Appearances.** In the anterior tibial and peroneal nerves, the neurilemma was very much thickened. The nerve-tubes tortuous with deficiency of the white matter. Numerous small oil globules along the fibres. In the posterior tibial, below the point of second amputation, there was no trace of true nervous structure, the coarse fibres of which the nerves consisted being entirely composed of many bands of fibrous tissues.

**Dissecting Abscess of the Leg. Operation;  
Nitrous-Oxide Gas.**

James —, colored, *æt.* 15. Received a blow upon the left leg five weeks ago. An abscess has formed, which is about the middle of the limb on the outer side, immediately under the skin. The pus has worked its way in various directions, and has reached the surface by one small orifice at the inner side of the tibia. All this requires is a free incision, laying open the undermined portion. A flaxseed poultice and then some stimulating wash may be applied. Profound *anæsthesia* was induced by the nitrous-oxide, lasting one minute, and the abscess was freely opened. No unpleasant symptoms followed the use of the gas. Consciousness returned very rapidly. No sickness of the stomach.

**Syphilitic Sarcocoele. Sloughing of the Scrotum.  
Removal of the Gland. Nitrous-Oxide.**

—, *æt.* 22. The patient contracted chancre three years ago, which was followed by inguinal enlargement and profuse skin eruption. Ulceration of his nose is a prominent symptom, and the part has assumed the flattened appearance consequent upon the loss of its bony structure. About a year since, the right testicle began to enlarge, became heavy, very hard, and at times painful. Six weeks ago, the testicle increased enormously in size, the skin covering it sloughed, leaving the organ entirely denuded. There is a fetid discharge, which weakens him very much. In this disease we find the organ infiltrated with a yellowish lymph, which is deposited in and around the tubules, finally obliterating the normal structure. The parts here have sloughed to such an extent as to leave no chance for the organ being covered by skin. In consequence of this, the great discharge, and the disorganization of the part, we shall remove it. The nitrous-oxide was inhaled, perfect *anæsthesia* being induced, an incision was made, running up the cord, which was turned out and divided. The hemorrhage being controlled with one acupuncture needle.

## Medical Societies.

### PHILADELPHIA CO. MEDICAL SOCIETY.

#### Report on Cholera.

At a late meeting of the Philadelphia County Medical Society a Committee was appointed to present a report on cholera, which we herewith present to our readers. For point, brevity and perspicuity, the report is to be especially commended.

The Committee present as the sum of all the recorded experience, of those who have been close observers of the spread and development of cholera, that its propagation has been very positively promoted, and its malignancy undoubtedly aggravated, by the presence of filth. By the word filth, the Committee would be understood to mean, all and everything which is calculated to render the atmosphere impure. In the category of filth, the Committee include foul slaughter-houses, cess-pools and water-closets, obstructed sewers, damp and imperfectly ventilated cellars, and other places where sugar, molasses and other substances prone to decomposition are stored, foul and stagnant gutters, damp and badly drained courts and alleys, bone-boiling and decomposed animal and putrid fat-boiling establishments, and the manufacturing of fertilizing agents, into which as a component part of the fertilizer, the decomposed soft tissues of animals enter; the crowding together of large numbers of persons in defectively ventilated and badly lighted factories and workshops. Each of the foregoing is a source of atmospheric contamination, by generating and sending forth large volumes of putrid gases, and productive of one of the conditions which, it is universally conceded, predispose to the attack of epidemic diseases. These sources of insalubrity are, to a very great extent, susceptible of control, or abatement, requiring only manly humane individual enterprise, and the resources which the properly constituted authorities of the city have at their command, to be put into active operation for their removal, and hence, the extinguishment largely of those great predisposing elements to attacks of epidemic disorders. The history of the present cholera epidemic abroad is pregnant with the facts, that its spread and malignancy, its attacks and devastation, have been in exact ratio with the presence of filth, the neglect of personal cleanliness, and the disregard of public hygiene. In the progress of the disease, in no other place, has there been anything like the terrific ravage by cholera, as in Constantinople, notoriously the most filthy city in Europe. Precisely that which took place in Constantinople will repeat itself elsewhere, just in proportion as that great source of atmospheric contamination filth, in its protean forms, shall be disregarded, and prompt and effectual means be not applied, for its control, as was the case in the city referred to.

Among the highest and most important duties of legislators, and those who have confided to them the government of communities, are the



enactment and enforcement of such sanitary laws and police regulations, as shall best secure the health of those communities, who have confided to them their governmental, and certainly, to a very large extent, the control of their personal interests. There are indeed certain vast operations, promotive of health, which can only be carried on by the public authorities, the neglect of which, at all times, is to be deprecated; but at a time, when the evidence is fast thickening, that cholera, in an epidemic form, may visit our city at no very remote day, for the active, vigorous, and intelligent enforcement of sanitary laws and police regulations to be disregarded, neglected, or even delayed, may entail upon the community the most disastrous results. In view of this fact, we have to urge upon the City Councils prompt and energetic action in enforcing fully all the sanitary regulations in regard to the cleansing of the highways, alleys, and by-ways; the enforcement of the laws for the prompt removal of all garbage, the opening and cleansing, at short intervals, of all culvert inlets; the promotion of perfect surface drainage, and an inspection of the docks and wharves along the fronts of the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, with a view of ascertaining their actual condition, and if found filthy, to have the necessary steps taken to correct the evil. We would further invite the Councils' prompt and energetic co-operation with the Board of Health in enforcing all laws, and in the strict application of all measures calculated to secure the best public hygiene, and thus at once in the most efficient manner to remove from our midst some of the great predisposing causes of epidemic cholera, and measurably prevent its spread, and deprive it of much of its malignancy.

The Committee recognize in the resolutions of the Board of Health, passed Sept. 3d, 1865, the true basis for public sanitary operations, and have to express the hope that the Board will receive all the co-operative support of the Councils it may require, to enable it fully to develop and efficiently execute all its plans for the protection of the community from the destructive influence, etc. of cholera.

The Committee would not be regarded as alarmists, and have to assure those whose business it is to promote public hygiene, that there will be but little else, so efficient, to prevent excitement and keep down alarm in regard to a visitation of cholera, as the prompt and vigorous enforcement of all the sanitary laws, and the bustle incident to the removal of all sources of atmospheric contamination. If, in the enlightened discharge of their duties to place our city in the best possible condition to resist cholera, or to mitigate its virulence, the authorities should encounter from the thoughtless and ignorant, or, worse than all, the sordid and vicious, opposition and fault-finding, they will soon discover that the bane of opposition and fault-finding will have its prompt and comforting antidote, in the endorsement of their course by the wise, the humane, and the just.

The Committee feel that their duty would be only half performed if they did not say to the community that, notwithstanding cholera is a fearful malady, its attacks are not necessarily mortal, and that its fatality can be much, very much diminished by prompt, judicious medical treatment. Indeed, of those who wisely subject themselves to intelligent and skilful treatment at the very dawn of the disease, not only a majority, but a large majority recover.

In order that an attack of cholera may be prevented, the Committee recommend that all pursue their usual occupations, being careful to avoid excessive labor and encroachment upon the usual hours devoted to rest and sleep; to be circumspect in regard to their food, avoiding all articles of diet which they know from experience are likely to produce stomach or bowel disturbances; to observe great regularity in regard to the time of taking meals, and to abstain from eating gross food and articles of diet difficult of digestion at supper; to avoid the use of alcoholic liquors as beverages, and to discountenance the pernicious notion, that they are in any manner preventives of cholera; to live well, and sustain themselves with a mixed diet of wholesome food; to avoid all unnecessary exposure; to pay the utmost attention to the quality and quantity of their clothing, using adequate protection against cold and damp. The Committee have also to urge great attention to personal and domestic cleanliness, attention to the light and ventilation of houses, workshops, places of business, etc., and special attention to cellars and basement-rooms, in removing from them all matter susceptible of decomposition, the free application of lime, and the insuring as far possible in those places, dryness and ventilation.

Without proposing to interfere with rational amusements, or the assemblage of persons for needful religious and secular purposes, the Committee would recommend the avoidance of crowds in illy ventilated halls and rooms, particularly at night. Of equal importance with other recommendations and suggestions, the Committee have to urge upon all, that in the event of the slightest disturbance of the health, all temporizing or procrastination be avoided, and prompt application be made to their medical advisers for treatment.

In an observance of the few suggestions and recommendations we have made, will be found, the Committee believe, great security from an attack of cholera, or if attacked, much freedom from suffering, with increased surety of restoration to health.

The Committee present the following resolutions, to wit:

1. *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of the Society, the time for placing the city in condition to resist the invasion of cholera, and to deprive it of much of its malignancy, is during the absence of warm weather; hence the present is the period when all sanitary measures can be carried on without disadvantage for the time, and with great good for the future.

2. *Resolved*, That the City Councils be respectfully requested to use all the machinery of the municipal government to place the city in the most salubrious condition, and that while we recommend the avoidance of extravagance, we would advise the most thorough and complete application of sanitary measures, regardless of the legitimate cost.

3. *Resolved*, That the Board of Health be respectfully requested to use all its powers in making operative all the sanitary laws which it is authorized to enforce, relying upon an enlightened public sentiment for support in its humane efforts to deprive the threatened epidemic of much of its terrors and virulence.

4. *Resolved*, That the Board of Health be and it is hereby requested to invite the citizens of the different wards to organize associations for the promotion of public hygiene, and invite those associations to appoint block committees, to examine into the sanitary condition of the wards, and that the ward associations report all such matters to the Board, as shall in their judgment require the attention and interference of that body, to secure the best hygienic condition for the city.

The Committee, while recommending an observance of the suggestions it has made for the purpose of preventing cholera, etc., would encourage hope and cheerfulness in the community, and a reliance upon the goodness of the Great Dispenser of all things, that he may bless the means which shall be applied to stay the onward progress, and blunt the malignancy of the pestilence.

A. NEBINGER, M. D.  
JOHN BELL, M. D.  
L. P. GEBHARD, M. D.  
B. H. COATES, M. D.  
WM. MAYBURY, M. D.

#### **PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK.**

*Meeting of November 23d.*

##### **Removal of Tumor from Antrum of Highmore.**

Dr. KRAKOWITZER stated that, contrary to his expectation, the patient from whom he had removed a soft sarcomatous tumor of the antrum, (see last report,) was doing well, the reparative process progressing favorably, and as yet no sign of meningitis has shown itself.

##### **Urinary Calculus in a Child.**

Dr. REYNOLDS presented a specimen of urinary calculus of considerable size, removed from a child four years of age. He had been called to see the child on account of inability to urinate. The warm bath and the other usual remedies were resorted to. Finally, on examination, the calculus was found impacted in the penis behind the glans, and by introducing a forceps and the use of a considerable degree of force, it was removed. Dr. JACOBI had mentioned to him that he had removed five calculi under similar circumstances.

##### **Partial Luxation of Lower End of Tibia forward.**

Prof. HAMILTON showed a specimen of dislocation of the lower end of the tibia forward, with

fracture of the malleoli. The peculiar deformity in these cases is a diminution of length in the anterior portion of the foot, while the heel becomes apparently elongated.

##### **Gunshot Fracture of Femur.**

Dr. BRADLEY presented the femur of a man who had died of exhaustion and intense suppuration resulting from a gunshot wound of the thigh, implicating and fracturing the femur. There was considerable callus thrown around, and union had taken place. Surrounded by the callus, however, and pretty firmly held in its position was a sequestrum, several inches in length.

Dr. KRAKOWITZER stated that the specimen, in his opinion, illustrated one of the principles of treatment of gunshot fractures—that regarding secondary operations for the removal of sequestra. The patient died of exhaustion, diarrhoea, in short, chronic pyæmia, in consequence of the continuous bad suppuration, kept up by the presence of a foreign body in the shape of dead bone. He did not see why a patient under these circumstances should not live, if the sequestrum be removed in time. The rule in these cases is to wait; but if there is much inflammation, bad and extensive suppuration and diarrhoea, secondary operations should not be delayed.

Another reason against such delay is the danger, when the fracture is near joints, of osteomyelitis. The sequestrum can generally, if not always, be removed without destroying the union.

Dr. BRADLEY also presented a specimen of aneurism of the aorta.

##### **Necrosis of Tibia.**

Prof. POST presented a specimen of necrosis of the tibia obtained from a child about 12 years of age. The specimen was remarkable on account of the necrosis extending fairly down into the ankle-joint, the tibia being ankylosed with the astragalus. It is seldom that the disease, as in this case, attacks the spongy portions of bone.

## **EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.**

### **Periscope.**

#### **Ligation of Common Iliac Artery.**

Dr. JAMES B. CUTTER, of Newark, N. J., relates in the *Amer. Jour. of Med. Sciences*, a case of "ligation of the common iliac artery: sequel of a case of ligation of external iliac artery for aneurism of femoral artery." The aneurism had been produced by a wound inflicted accidentally with the large blade of a pocket-knife in the inner side of the left thigh, about two inches below Poupert's ligament, the blade entering the femoral artery and vein near the origin of the profunda. He never experienced any trouble in consequence until about seven years after the receipt of the injury, when the existence of an aneurism became plain, and rapidly growing, the external iliac was ligated Feb. 6th, 1864.

Relief was at first experienced, the enormous

swelling and distension of the leg yielding; but a few months later, (in June,) returned and gradually increased, rendering his suffering extreme, so that, on September 17th, ligation of the common iliac artery was decided upon. He died September 21st, from peritonitis. On making the autopsy, "the whole surface of the peritoneum was found coated with lymph, and there was a small collection of serum. The lymph in some places was in flakes; in other situations it was the consistency of thick gruel, closely resembling pus."

During the operation, the fascia transversalis had been found firmly fastened to the peritoneum, "which was very much thickened, and firmly adherent to the surrounding parts. It had been impossible to separate the peritoneum from the iliac fossa. The peritoneal sac was therefore opened, and the artery secured in that manner."

#### Action of Digitalis and Ergot Combined.

Dr. CHARLES O'L. RONAYNE publishes in the *Dublin Medical Press* an article on the "Action of digitalis and ergot combined," from which remedies he has derived great benefits in the treatment of many renal and cardiac maladies. He claims for the two remedies combined, sedative, tonic, and hæmostatic action. In one case, of a young man suffering from mitral valve regurgitation, complicated with general and pericardiac effusion, and who during an attack of subacute rheumatism was seized with severe heart symptoms, great anxiety, precordial distress, dyspnoea, sleeplessness, frequent faintings, fluttering, and irregular pulse, occasional hæmoptysis, with general dropsy and some pericardiac effusion,—the symptoms were all speedily relieved by ten to fifteen drop doses of the tincture of digitalis and ergot combined, thrice daily. The combination is also recommended in cases of chronic bronchitis and bronchorrhoeal asthma; the ergot Dr. RONAYNE supposes to act on the muscular coating of the overloaded capillaries, whilst the digitalis lessens the driving power of the heart. He has also derived marked benefit from the combined administration of the remedies in cases of deficient menstruation, with distressing palpitations, occurring in nervous or hysterical females. If the medicines be given a week or ten days before the catamenial period, and a few hip-baths the days immediately preceding, after a short time decided relief will be experienced, the menstruation becomes healthier, the palpitations cease, and any wandering pains in the back or legs pass off. The same symptoms occurring in leucocythæmic females, or even complete cessation of the menstruation, with oedema of the extremities, pallid greenness of the face, loss of appetite, with distinct bruit de diable over the carotids, these will be very much benefitted by the administration of the drugs; and if, at the same time, iron be given and no organic disease be present, a cure will be effected.

The tinctures of these articles the author considers the best preparation, but complains of the inequality of their strength and the uncertainty of

their action. The best way of obtaining the active ingredients of such plants as valerian, digitalis, buchu, ergot, etc., he considers to be by a double process, first of alcoholic extraction, and then of aqueous maceration. The plant is first infused in absolute alcohol, after a time expressed and filtered; in this way the oils, resins, etc., are obtained; the residue is then macerated in boiling water, which dissolves out the gums, salines, and extractive matters. The two solutions are then mixed, and thus a pure, certain solution of the constituents of the drug is procured.

#### Danger of Subcutaneous Injections.

Prof. NASBAUM, of Munich, suffering from neuralgia, had frequently injected morphia under his own skin, sometimes to the extent of five grains in twenty-four hours. Two months ago he injected two grains of acetate of morphia dissolved in fifteen minims of water, and accidentally sent it direct into a subcutaneous vein instead of into the cellular tissue. He gives a graphic account of his dangerous position for two hours, after which the effect passed off. He has seen similar effects in a smaller degree in two of his patients, and the practical lessons are, that as it may be impossible to avoid veins at all times, and one may be punctured unawares, subcutaneous injection should always be done *very slowly*. The effects are so instantaneous that the syringe can be stopped at the first sign of danger, and some of the injected fluid mixed with blood may be sucked out again by the syringe. It is very remarkable how the effects of the same dose of the same substance differ when directly injected into a vein and mixed with the venous blood, and when they filter into the blood from the cellular tissue through the unbroken coats of the vessels.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*—*Dublin Med. Press.*

#### Poisoning by Veratrum Viride.

Dr. J. B. BUCKINGHAM, of Bloomville, Seneca county, Ohio, relates the following case in the *American Journal of Med. Sciences*:

H. C—, an adult who had been taking fluid extract of valerian for some nervous derangement, stepped into a drug store, picked up a bottle, thinking it was valerian, and took a swallow, and passed it to a friend, (a lawyer) remarking, take some of this, it will improve your oratory. The latter, being ambitious, also took a swallow, and soon after left the store. In about half an hour afterwards, I was hastily summoned to see the orator, whom I found in the following condition: Almost speechless, retching and vomiting incessantly, bathed in profuse cold perspiration, pulse scarcely perceptible in the radial artery. I administered at once a full teaspoonful of laudanum, after which there was no more vomiting, pulse increased in strength and volume, followed by a quick recovery. This was the only medicine given; whereas in the case of H. C—, who took no laudanum, the vomiting continued for some hours, with total loss of speech and locomotion for some time. Each had taken about a teaspoonful of fluid extract of veratrum viride.



## MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER.

PHILADELPHIA, DECEMBER 2, 1865.

## ENLARGEMENT AND INCREASE OF PRICE.

The pressure of literary material on our columns makes it necessary to announce an increase of the size of the *MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER*. This increase, together with an improved external appearance, will take place from the first of January next; from which time the subscription price will be FIVE DOLLARS per annum. The cost of paper and labor seem to be permanently fixed at high rates, and we are compelled to accept the situation, and graduate our subscription rate accordingly. If these expenses lessen, or a liberal support justify it, we shall be enabled to further enlarge the work, or expend more on the literary department, or perhaps do both.

*All advance payments made prior to January 1st, 1866, will be credited at the present rate of \$4 per annum. Payments made after that date, will be credited at the rate of \$5.*

## NEW LITERARY ARRANGEMENTS.

As one of the results of the settlement of our national difficulties, and the return to civil life of some of our old collaborators, we are enabled to announce the consummation of an excellent arrangement by which we shall hereafter maintain a close editorial connection with the city of New York. This arrangement will include, besides editorial observations, regular intelligent reports of the proceedings of the New York Academy of Medicine, the Pathological Society, and correspondence on medical matters in and near the metropolis. We are also endeavoring to secure good clinical reports from that city. These, with the clinical reports from this city and Baltimore, and the reports of the meetings of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, in addition to our ordinary arrangements will enhance materially the value and interest of the *REPORTER*. These arrangements are *very costly*, but, we doubt not, the profession will sustain our enterprise with such liberality that we shall be enabled to meet the heavy outlay without embarrassment. Aside from our own labor, our present plans will call for a cash outlay of from thirty to fifty dollars a week on the literary department of the *REPORTER* alone.

## ALCOHOL.

In the perusal of our late European exchanges we have noticed the discussion of several questions, either in the journals or in medical societies, which it seems to us useless to discuss, at least in the shape in which they are brought forward.

Thus, for instance, our friends of the *British Medical Journal*, the official organ of the British Medical Association, is editorially, and by its correspondents discussing the question whether

"Alcohol is Food or Physic?" Can the physiological questions involved in the consideration of the relations of alcohol as a dietary or therapeutic agent be put in a form more vague than this? And can we expect to arrive at any but vague deductions in its discussion?

To justify our criticism, it is to be remarked, in the first place, that no sane man has ever claimed or ever will claim for alcohol pure, any position among the articles of nutrition, and any discussion which is based upon the physiological effects of strong undiluted alcohol, is of no practical value, because those who claim it to be food, claim it to be so only in its natural diluted forms. And suppose it is proved satisfactorily, as we believe it has been, that the various alcoholic beverages which have been in use among mankind during the last four thousand years, possess no value as real food, (and by food we understand assimilable articles,) still the question remains open—Why it has been that man has clung with such tenacity to the use of these articles?

The instincts of mankind frequently are beyond mere explanation of abstract reason and the deductions of science—sometimes even running exactly contrary to these deductions. Science may prove that neither wine nor any of the fermented liquors possess any value as articles of food, yet we do not believe that such demonstration has in the least degree lessened their consumption. This consumption, in all ages and amongst all classes and nations, has never been based upon the ground that wine or beer are food; but people have used and consumed them simply on the ground of gustatory preference and the pleasant effects which they yield. It is from this point of view that the philosophical inquirer will study the history of the drinking habits of man, and if he can determine the *real cause* in the nature of man which has led him to the extensive use of wine and its various substitutes, he will also be able to solve the question whether that use was justified by the physical or moral nature of man, or resulted in toto from his depravity?

The question of the benefits or evil effects of alcoholic beverages, then, is not a matter concerning their chemical nature and action upon the gastric juice and the lining tissues alone, but a question involving the whole nature of man, physical and moral, of habits of social life, and we do not think that we are far from the truth when we state that as yet we know very little of the question. It may be perplexing to think, when we are convinced that the use of alcoholic beverages is injurious *in toto*, that we can assign

no proper reason why mankind from its earliest infancy should have adopted, so universally, an injurious habit, but the fact is undeniable, and we must fight the enemy, if we fight him at all, on his own historical battle-ground.

But we do not intend to enter into a discussion of the general question of alcoholic beverages on this occasion. It is their medical use which concerns us most.

It is a fact well known by every one of our profession, that during the last ten or fifteen years the use of alcohol, mainly in its stronger forms, has become amazingly frequent, and that in the treatment of many diseases it enters as one of the chief agents, and that such practice is strongly advocated by some of the most eminent members of the profession. Milk punches and egg-nogs form in many a sick room the main reliance of the practitioner, and it is really a most serious question, whether we are not doing, on the other side of the house, the same thing which our predecessors did, *i. e.*, run into extremes. They over-bleed and over-debilitated. Does it not occur to many of our readers that there is too much tendency, in our day, to *over-stimulate*? It is our conviction that such is the case, and while none can be more willing to admit the efficacious effects of alcoholic stimulation in low fevers, we feel it our duty to protest against a practice of almost indiscriminate stimulation, which bids fair to become the great error of medical practice of this generation.

In this view we do not stand alone. At the recent discussion on pneumonia, in the Academy of Medicine in New York, Professor ALONZO CLARK made a statement which fully embodies our views on the subject. Dr. CLARK incidentally mentioned the prevailing tendency among physicians to stimulate, and stated that as he had been one of the first in that city to introduce alcoholic stimuli in the treatment of low fevers, he felt it his duty to warn against the prevailing inclination to indiscriminate and over-stimulation, which appears to have become as *fashionable* among physicians as the wearing of dead women's hair among the gentler sex.

#### THE SCIENCE OF COOKERY.

Civilization and cookery go hand in hand. As we advance in civilization, the palate becomes more refined, and the art of cookery grows in importance. Alas, for the stomach and the health of mankind, it has, heretofore, in our country at least, been too much of an art. Science and reason have had little to do with preparing the food on which depends the healthful development of

our bodies and minds. "First class cooks," to whom we pay extravagant wages, serve up for our tables viands floating in empyreumatic grease, and enveloped in animal charcoal. "Tenderloins," for which we pay the highest price, are brought to the table in a condition that tries the endurance of our masseters, and the strength of our masticating apparatus: The aroma of our coffee and tea is dissipated through the house, while insipid infusions of charred coffee berries, and decayed tea-leaves, colored green—with we know not what—are brought on our tables, and tempered often with a villainous mixture called milk, the whole constituting a compound of a peculiar *muddy* look and indescribable flavor—and this passes for coffee and tea, while learned disquisitions are put forth as to the healthfulness of those articles as beverages. First, give us the beverages—then the disquisitions!

Bread, "the staff of life,"—heaven save the mark! comes to us from these "first class cooks," sour, sodden, half-baked, perhaps even dried up without being baked, certainly fit, half the time, for nothing but to try our patience and derange the digestive apparatus. Our pastry—cakes, pies, crackers, etc.—is notoriously compounded of refuse flour, rancid butter, and doubtful sugar, which is expected by its sweetness to hide all deficiencies; the quality of lightness, "so-called," being given by a hap-hazard use of an acid and an alkali. Our vegetables water-soaked, eggs generally overdone if boiled, or redolent of burned grease if cooked otherwise, and the whole served up cold, when they ought to be hot, and hot, when they ought to be cold, what wonder is it that we as a nation are martyrs to dyspepsia, and other ailments originating directly from the villainous manner in which our food is cooked? To correct all this it is indispensably necessary that our housekeepers, as well as those whom we employ as professional cooks, should be instructed as to the proper mode of cooking and serving meals.

We are happy to observe that a qualified gentleman has in New York in successful operation, for the second season, we believe, an Academy for the instruction of ladies in the science and art of cookery.

M. BLOT, who seems to have made himself so exceedingly popular that he has been compelled to refuse admission to hundreds of applicants to his Academy, has a man to assist him in his demonstrations. Dishes of all kinds are cooked and served up before the pupils. Everything in the lesson is so plain and simple that a child

might do the work; everything, too, is done without any bustle or confusion; so that were it not for the ocular proof, one might suppose that the food was prepared "by hands unseen."

"M. BLOR intends, when his first class is far enough advanced, to teach them to prepare bills of fare that will be entirely suited to dyspeptics, so that by confining themselves to the food so prepared, any victims of that 'dread enemy of man,' provided he has not been too long in the monster's clutches, may, in the course of two or three months, 'forget that he has a stomach.' What would not CARLYLE have given, had there been 'cooking academies' in England, so that he might never have discovered that he had a stomach!

"M. BLOR told one of his classes lately, that in France, when any one wished to pay a very high honor to any lady, a dinner is given to her in which all the sauces are the color of her hair; that is blonde or brown, and the dinner is a *diner blonde* or *diner brune*.

"The bill of fare for the *diner blonde* consisted of soup, with asparagus; calves' brain, fried; haricot of mutton; potatoes; béchamel sauce; carrots au jus; eggs à la neige; beignets soufflés; jelly.

"On the occasion of Queen VICTORIA's visit to LOUIS NAPOLEON, he gave her a *diner blonde* which required twenty-five cooks to prepare, and our brilliant English friends thought 'the Emperor must have cooks that did not know a great deal, for he had all his sauces of the same color,' not knowing how great homage had been given to her. The *diner brune* was soup au neilles, eels en matelote, lamb chops, piquante sauce, macaroni au gratin, potatoes à la lyonnaise, cakes with almonds, jelly, cape noir. These dinners, it must be remembered, are only given in honor of a lady."

M. BLOR teaches his classes how to arrange the different viands on the table, so that they may be always pleasing to the eye as well as to the taste. He announces his intention to organize a class for gentlemen, fixing some convenient hour for the lessons, after the day's business is over.

We trust that other competent persons will engage in this truly important branch of teaching, and that not only in our larger cities and towns, but throughout the country, so that those whose business it is to prepare our food or attend to its preparation, will have an opportunity of learning something of the *science of cookery*.

## Notes and Comments.

### A Case of Mistaken Identity!

AS ARTEMAS WARD would say, "the follerin is a goak,"—and too good to be lost. A friend of ours not long since met a subscriber to the REPORTER, when a colloquy something like the following occurred: "The editor of the REPORTER is a fool—aint half a man. I've a notion of stopping the thing." "Granted that he is a fool; but what is the ground of your opinion?" "Why, he don't wear a beard, and he's just no man at all that shaves his beard." "I beg your pardon, but he does wear quite a long beard." "I tell you he don't, though." "But I saw him yesterday, and he had a beard then." "Well—look here, there's his picture on the cover of the REPORTER, and he's got no beard!" A cabinet meeting was immediately called, and in connection with our reconstruction policy for the new volume, (which by the way is satisfactory to *everybody*.) it was voted that respect to the memory of the distinguished BENJAMIN RUSH required that said picture be dispensed with after the close of the present volume!

### Mitchell's New General Atlas.

This atlas is sufficiently large, yet not so bulky as some of the well-known earlier atlases. On this account it is more convenient for ready reference.

It contains eighty-seven maps and plans, together with valuable statistical tables, and an extensive index of places.

The edition just issued has new and much enlarged maps of the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware, and the new State of Nevada. It contains all the New Territories, Counties, and Railroads, with the sites of the Battle-fields of the late war, and plans of all our principal cities.

The lettering of the maps is exceedingly clear. This atlas is sold by agents only. Mr. G. P. Maxson is the only salesman for Philadelphia.

### New Music

Published by HORACE WATERS, No. 481 Broadway, New York.

"*Were I but his own Wife*"—Ballad. Words by Thomas Moore. Music by Mrs. E. A. Parkhurst.

"*Dixie Doodle*." Words and Music by Wm. H. Stevens.

"*The Gem of the Mountains*"—(Mazourka.) Composed by Mrs. E. A. Parkhurst.

"*Our Soldiers' last March*"—Introducing the celebrated Peace Jubilee, composed expressly for the 139th Regiment, by Mrs. E. A. Parkhurst.

"*The first Kiss at the gate*." Words by T. Johnson. Music by Augustus A. Crilly.



## News and Miscellany.

### History of the Cholera on the Atalanta.

The following letter of Dr. WALSER to Dr. SWINBURNE explains itself.

HOSPITAL SHIP FALCON, November 8.

*My Dear Doctor*—My time has been so much occupied that my daily reports were necessarily limited to momentary impressions, and the names of the sick and deceased on board the Atalanta. The history of the disease, its cause and development, and the measures adapted to arrest its progress, could only be made the subject of a communication after days of observation and investigation. Cholera prevailed in Paris to a limited extent in September. Emigrants from Switzerland and the southern part of Germany, who constituted the majority of the Atalanta's passengers, came by way of Paris to Havre, and while in the several emigrant boarding-houses persons died after a few days or hours' sickness, attended by a consultation of government physicians. Unusual facilities were offered for the shipment of passengers, and the anxiety of the government officials to place them on board was so marked as to cause inquiries on the part of the officers of the ship. The day after the sailing from Havre the first case of cholera occurred; and, as already stated, some sixty out of five hundred and twenty-five steerage passengers took ill, of whom sixteen died, while the cabins on deck remained exempt from the visitation of the disease. Since her arrival at quarantine thirty-six more of her passengers sickened, and four died, swelling the total number of cases to ninety-six and twenty deaths, with patients still remaining under treatment.

From the first the disease presented the uniform symptoms pathognostic of *cholera Asiatica*, and although in but few cases terminating fatally, the same virus produced the milder forms of the disease, which destroyed life in some instances in twenty-four, or even in twelve hours. If we take into consideration that all on board were perfectly healthy previous to the embarkation of the passengers from Havre; that cases had already occurred in Havre, and from the first day these passengers came on board the ship, we necessarily must look to these persons as the carriers of the malady on board the Atalanta, and to Havre or (as they all came by way of Paris) to Paris, officially declared as suffering from the visitation of the disease, as the source of infection. In this connection I would call attention to the fact that, while merely passing through Paris these passengers contracted and propagated the disease. Thousands of boxes of merchandise not only came from Paris, but from Marseilles, Toulon, and Barcelona, while cholera was prevailing as an epidemic, without producing the disease in a single instance; and our single endeavor in quarantine must therefore be the quarantine of persons and not of ships or merchandise. To look for the cause of the disease, or even its development in the construction of the Atalanta, or the want of attention on the part of the officers of the

ship, is perfectly unwarranted. The vessel is built for passengers; the steerage is eight feet six inches to nine feet four inches high, divided into three apartments, each provided with four ventilators, and ten side ports, and containing a double tier of berths on each side of an open space used as a dining-room. The provisions were good and abundant, and the captain's kindness spoken of in the highest terms. Dr. Herdes, of Berlin, by his strict attention to the internal hygiene, enforcing cleanliness and order, and preserving silence and secrecy on the nature of the prevailing disease, incurred the ill-will of the passengers. Besides cholera, eight cases of variola occurred, all of whom recovered, and the plea advanced by some that the disease could not have been cholera because so few sickened and died, is equally applicable to small-pox. May we not rather attribute the mild character of the disease to the abundant supply of pure air and the low temperature, and rather express our surprise at the large number which, under the circumstances, is rather the exception than the rule? The cabin passengers, in all probability, enjoyed immunity from disease by having these advantages in a still greater degree, and having separate apartments, where only two were assigned to the steerage passengers, and these not always in a very cleanly condition. Since the sick have been removed from the ship but few new cases have occurred, and these of the mildest character, and we may reasonably hope for the speedy disappearance of the malady. The vessel has been thoroughly cleansed and fumigated, the bedding and clothing of the passengers aired and ventilated, and as soon as the proper facilities are offered, all the linen of the passengers will be washed, and every measure adopted to purify and disinfect.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,  
THEODORE WALSER, M. D.

### Forty Persons Poisoned by Impure Calomel.

The *St. Louis Republican* says that forty persons were recently poisoned in Shiloh, Illinois, under the following circumstances. "It appears that two physicians of that place recently sent to a drug store, in Chester, for a quantity of calomel. In one day the medicine was administered to forty patients, when it was discovered that with the calomel there was mixed corrosive sublimate, a violent poison. All the patients were taken with alarming symptoms, and in the cases of seven of them the result had proved fatal at the date of our advices, and it was feared that others would not survive. The presence of corrosive sublimate was probably due to a culpable carelessness at the laboratory of the manufacturer."

We have little confidence in the truth of the above story, and would like to have a true version of it by some respectable physician in that section.

### Mustered Out.

The following Surgeons of Volunteers were lately mustered out: JAMES K. RODGERS, Missouri; WM. B. COCHRAN, Iowa, and JAMES M. STUDY, Indiana.

## A Farewell to Agassiz.

BY O. W. HOLMES, M. D.

How the mountains talked together,  
Looking down upon the weather,  
When they heard our friend had planned his  
Little trip among the Andes!  
How they'll bare their snowy scalps  
To the climber of the Alps,  
When the cry goes through their passes,  
"Here comes the great Agassiz!"  
"Yes, I'm tall," says Chimborazo,  
"But I wait for him to say so,—  
That's the only thing that lacks,—he  
Must see me, Cotopaxi!"  
"Ay! ay!" the fire peak thunders,  
"And he must view my wonders!  
I'm but a lonely crater,  
Till I have him for spectator!"  
The mountain hearts are yearning,  
The lava torches burning,  
The rivers bend to meet him,  
The forests bow to greet him,  
It thrills the spinal column  
Of fossil fishes solemn,  
And glaciers crawl the faster  
To the feet of their old master!

Heaven keep him well and hearty,  
Both him and all his party!  
From the sun that broils and smites,  
From the centipede that bites,  
From the hailstorm and the thunder,  
From the vampire and the condor,  
From the gust upon the river,  
From the sudden earthquake shiver,  
From the trip of mule or donkey,  
From the midnight howling monkey,  
From the stroke of knife or dagger,  
From the puma and the jaguar,  
From the horrid boa-constrictor  
That has scared us in the pictur',  
From the Indians of the Pampas,  
Who would dine upon their grampas,  
From every beast and vermin  
That to think of sets us squirming,  
From every snake that tries on  
The traveler his pison,  
From every pest of natur',  
Likewise the alligator,  
And from two things left behind him,  
(Be sure they'll try to find him!)—  
The tax bill and assessor,—  
Heaven keep the great Professor!

May he find with his apostles,  
That the land is full of fossils,  
That the waters swarm with fishes  
Shaped according to his wishes,  
That every pool is fertile  
In fancy kinds of turtle,  
New birds around him singing,  
New insects, never stinging,  
With a million novel data,  
About the articulation,  
And facts that strip off all husks  
From the history of mollusks.

And when, with loud Te Deum,  
He returns to his Museum,  
May he find the monstrous reptile  
That so long the land has kept ill  
By Grant and Sherman throttled,  
And by Father Abraham bottled,  
(All specked and streaked and mottled  
With the scars of murderous battles,  
Where he clashed the iron rattles  
That gods and men he shook at.)  
For all the world to look at!

God bless the great Professor!  
And Madam too, God bless her!  
Bless him and all his band,  
On the sea and on the land,  
As they sail, ride, walk and stand—  
Bless them head and heart and hand,  
Till their glorious raid is o'er,  
And they touch our ransomed shore!  
Then the welcome of a nation,  
With its shout of exultation,  
Shall awake the dumb creation,  
And the shapes of buried mons  
Join the living creatures' peans,  
While the mighty megalosaurus,  
Leads the paleozoic chorus,—  
God bless the great Professor,  
And the land his proud possessor,—  
Bless them now and evermore!

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## MARRIED.

BUCKLEY-WHITE.—In Baltimore, Md. Nov. 31, Dr Thomas Buckley and Mrs. White, daughter of John Ridgley, Esq., of Hampton.

BURRELL-LOUGHRY.—Nov. 7th, by Rev. Mr. Nesbitt, Dr. D. Burrell, of New Derry, Westmoreland co. Pa., and Miss Esther C. Loughry, of Phillips' Mills, Indiana county, Pa.

BROWN-WEEK.—On the 15th Nov., at the Congregational Church in Toledo, Ohio, by the Rev. W. W. Williams, Theodore J. Brown, of Toledo, and Eliza L., daughter of Dr. Geo. L. Weed, of Cincinnati.

DE WITT-SPANGLER.—In the Presbyterian Church, York, Pa., on Nov. 4th, by Rev. Dr. De Witt, of Harrisburg, Pa., Dr. William R. De Witt, Jr., Surgeon U. S. V., of Charleston, S. C., and Miss Susan E., daughter of the late General Jacob Spangler, of York, Pa.

FISHER-MASON.—At Charlestown, Mass., Nov. 12, by the Rev. George E. Ellis, D. D., Horace N. Fisher, of Brookline, and Eliza Mason, daughter of Dr. William Mason.

RICHARDSON-GOULD.—In Boston, Nov. 16, by Rev. Dr. Stow, James B. Richardson, Esq., Counsellor-at-Law, and Miss Mary Cushing, daughter of Augustus A. Gould, M. D., all of Boston.

SCHENCK-BURRARD.—By Rev. S. D. Burrard, at the residence of the bride's parents, Nov. 22, James V. Schenck and Lizzie W. daughter of Dr. T. H. Burras, both of New York.

## DIED.

ALLINGHAM.—At Cherbourg, France, on Friday, Oct. 13, James J. Allingham, Passed Assistant Surgeon United States Navy.

LAWSON.—In Cincinnati, suddenly, Nov. 14th, of disease of the heart, Mrs. Sarah Lawson, wife of Dr. P. S. Lawson, in the 58th year of her age.

SCHREIMER.—Near New Texas, Ohio, Nov. 20, Lucinda, wife of Samuel Schreimer, M. D.

SEEGAR.—In Cincinnati, Nov. 14th, Florence J., second daughter of Dr. J. and Mary N. Seegar, aged 22 years and 21 days.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Dr. M. Miller, and A. G. Coleman, will please give us their former place of residence, that we may find, and change in mail book.

Dr. B. F. T., Camp Douglas, Utah Ter.—The price of the *Lancet*, (republication,) when taken in connection with the *Repositer*, is \$3 a year. We have ordered the back numbers of the *Lancet* for 1865, and send those of the *Repositer*, as requested.

Dr. H. A. S., Gallatin, Tenn.—Nelligan on the Skin, with illustrations, is a suitable work for you. Price \$7. The edition of the text, however, is not recent. A small work adapted to Nelligan's plates has lately been published by Hillier. Wilson on the Skin, with plates, is a larger, and more satisfactory work on some accounts. Price \$9.50. Nelligan's Plates and Hillier \$7.75.

Dr. S. P. W., Putnamville, Ind.—Thomas' Pronouncing Dictionary, Agnew's Practical Anatomy, Carpenter's Comparative Physiology, Lallemand on Spermatorrhoea, sent by Adams' Express, Nov. 23d.

Dr. J. McB., Cadiz, Ohio.—Byford on Diseases of Women, sent by mail, Nov. 20th.

Dr. D. C. R., Utah, Pa.—Byford on Diseases of Women, sent by Express, Nov. 20th.

Dr. J. McC., Chesterville, Ohio.—Two copies of Slade on Diphtheria, sent by mail, Nov. 20th.

## METEOROLOGY.

November	20,	21,	22,	23,	24,	25,	26.
Wind.....	N. E.	N. E.	N. W.	N. W.	N. W.	N.	N. W.
Weather.....	Cl'dy.	Rain.	Cl'dy.	Cl'dy.	Cl'dy.	Clear.	Clear.
Depth Rain.....		2 8-10	Shower.	1-10			
Thermometer.							
Minimum.....	39°	35°	31°	31°	29°	29°	28°
At 8 A. M.....	43	44	41	43	43	44	43
At 12 M.....	43	44	45	44	50	47	48
At 5 P. M.....	41	44	45	43	50	48	48
Mean.....	40.75	41.75	40.50	40.25	43.	39.50	41.75
Barometer.							
At 12 M.....	30.3	29.6	29.6	29.7	30.	30.	30.
Germanstown, Pa.							R. J. LEEDON.